

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 SAA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 SES-02 /085 W
-----028179 010634Z /15

R 311025Z JUL 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6516
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1564

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PINS, SHUM, IZ
SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSEIN LECTURES SECURITY FORCES

1. IN AN ELABORATELY STAGED MEDIA EVENT, RCC VICE CHAIRMAN
SADDAM HUSSEIN PAID A CALL AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
IRAQI PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES MORNING OF
JULY 30, ACCOMPANIED BY INTERIOR MINISTER IZZAT IBRAHIM
AND CHIEF OF THE MUKHABARAT SAADOUN SHAKER.

2. MAJOR TRAFFIC CIRCLES BETWEEN VICE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
IN WEST BAGHDAD AND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS IN EAST
BAGHDAD WERE BLOCKED OFF AT MID-MORNING. UPON ARRIVAL
AT THE HEADQUARTERS, HUSSEIN ADDRESSED THE STAFF AND
REMINDED THEM OF THEIR DUTY TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS
OR IRAQI CITIZENS WHILE CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES
AND PROTECTING THE BAATHIST REVOLUTION. HE WARNED
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THEM TO AVOID "TRADE UNION DOGMATISM AND TRADE UNION
SOLIDARITY" AND NOT TO COVER UP THEIR MISTAKES IN DEALING
WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, REMINDING THEM THAT
ONE OF THE MAJOR MISTAKES THEY COULD COMMIT WAS TO
PUSH GOOD CITIZENS TO THE SIDE OF THE ENEMIES OF IRAQ
AS A RESULT OF THEIR MISTAKES." HE ADMONISHED THEM
NOT TO MISUSE THE INFORMATION THEY POSSESS TO INJURE

PEOPLE OR THEIR REPUTATIONS AND TOLD THEM TO AVOID
"NON-OBJECTIVE AND UNPRINCIPLED CONSIDERATIONS" IN
THEIR ASSESSMENTS. SECURITY DOES NOT FUNCTION
AT THE EXPENSE OF LIBERTY, AND EVERY IRAQI MUST FEEL THAT IT
EXISTS TO PROTECT HIS FREEDOM.

3. HUSSEIN'S VISIT WAS REPORTED ON BAGHDAD RADIO BY LATE
AFTERNOON AND INTENSIVELY REPORTED ON EVENING
TELEVISION AND IN NEXT DAY'S PRESS. REPORTS NOTED THAT UPON
DEPARTING THE SECURITY HEADQUARTERS ENROUTE BACK TO HIS OFFICE,
SADDAM WAS CHEERED BY THE MASSES IN THE STREET. IN FACT,
STREETS HAD BEEN BLOCKED OFF AND WERE PEOPLED ONLY
BY NORMAL PASSERS-BY. SADDAM APPARENTLY SPENT REST
OF THE DAY WITH IZZAT IBRAHIM AND THE MUKHABARAT CHIEF,
FOR THEY ALL VISITED THE PARTY MUSEUM LATER IN THE
EVENING.

4. COMMENT: SADDAM'S LECTURE, AT LEAST THAT PART SHOWN
ON TV, WAS FORCEFULLY DELIVERED. THE
RATHER MASSIVE IRAQI SECURITY APPARATUS, AS HAS
HAPPENED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IS BY NOW ALMOST A
GOVERNMENT IN ITSELF AND IS GREATLY FEARED BY
THE POPULACE AT ALL LEVELS. EFFORTS TO CURB ITS
EXCESSES, AND COMBAT THE RUMORED TENDENCY TOWARD
CORRUPTION ON A GRAND SCALE, HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN UNDERWAY
FOR SOME TIME AT A FAR LESS PUBLIC LEVEL. THERE ARE ALSO
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RUMORS THAT SHAKER IS SCHEDULED FOR EVENTUAL REPLACE-
MENT.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO
BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT IMAGE-BUILDING PROGRAM IS ONE OF
THE FACTORS BEHIND THE EVENT, AS IRAQ ATTEMPTS
TO ALTER PERCEPTIONS OF HOW THE COUNTRY RUNS. OF
EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE IS THE POSSIBILITY THE GOI IS
CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO DIVORCE ITSELF FROM
THE PROBLEM GENERATED BY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN OUTSIDE
THE COUNTRY, E.G. THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PM NAYEF
IN LONDON, BY MISGUIDED ZEALOTS. IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT
TO CHANGE A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR EXCESSES,
BUT THE IRAQIS APPEAR TO BE TRYING HARD.
PECK

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